

NORTH CAROLINA

Violent Death
Reporting System
Durham County 2004 – 2007

March 2010

North Carolina
Injury & Violence
PREVENTION Branch

Division of Public Health

Background and Acknowledgements

The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System (NC-VDRS) is a CDC-funded state-wide surveillance system that collects detailed information on deaths resulting from violence: homicide, suicide, unintentional firearm deaths, legal intervention, and deaths for which intent could not be determined. NC-VDRS is a multi-source system that gathers information from death certificates, medical examiner reports, and law enforcement reports. The goal of this system is to aid researchers, legislators, and community interest groups in the development of public health prevention strategies to reduce violent deaths. NC-VDRS began collecting data in January, 2004. This document summarizes findings from Durham County, North Carolina that occurred from 2004 to 2007.

A Statewide Annual Report for 2007 will be completed by summer of 2010. More information can be found at: www.injuryfreenc.ncdhhs.gov/About/ncVDRS.htm.

The task of locating, abstracting, entering, and evaluating the data that are used to create the NC-VDRS is challenging, time-consuming and difficult. The extent and quality of the data in this report are the direct result of the dedication of the NC-VDRS staff: Tammy Norwood, Program Manager, and Susan Autry and Pat Jones, Statistical Research Assistants.

Thanks to Sharon Schiro for the analysis and programming of the NC-VDRS data, and Becca Byrd for the formatting and updating of this report.

Three advisory groups provided assistance to us with this report. The leadership of these advisory groups formed the Board Leadership & Evaluation Team (BLET). Members of the BLET for 2007 were Tamera Coyne-Beasley, Kay Sanford, Phillip J. Cook, Sandra Martin, Steve Marshall, and Anna Waller.

We acknowledge the assistance and on-going support of the N.C. State Center for Health Statistics, the N.C. Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, and the N.C. State Bureau of Investigation, as well as the many local law enforcement agencies throughout N.C. that have provided information to the NC-VDRS.

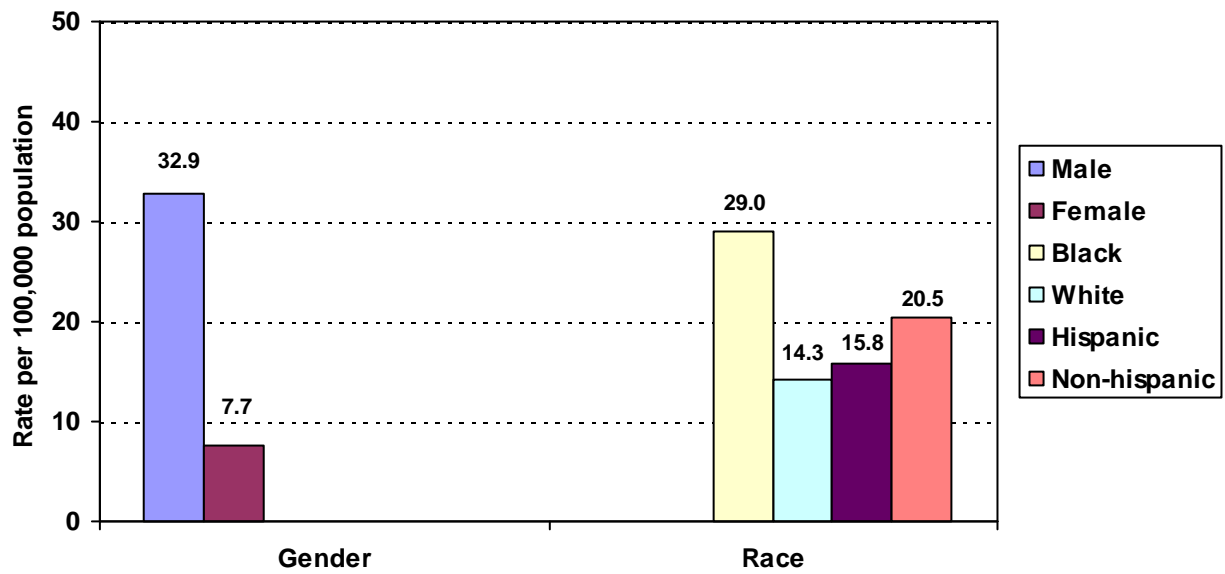
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SECTION I: OVERALL

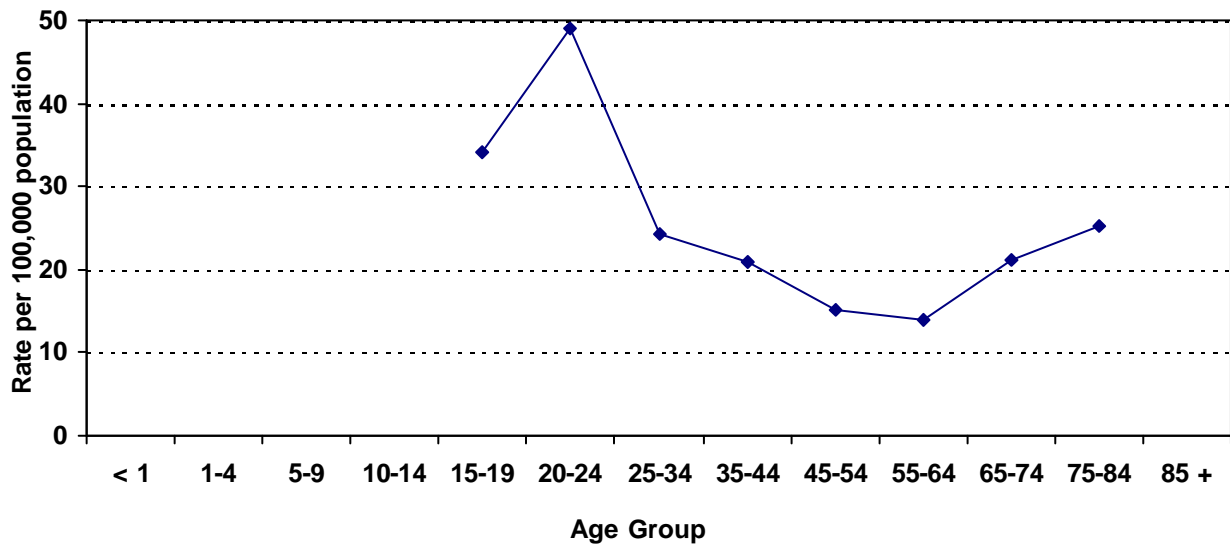
Table 1: Gender, Race, and Age Group of Violent Death Victims in Durham County, NC; 2004 - 2007					
		Number	%	Rate	CI
Gender					
	Male	158	80.2	32.9	27.8 – 38.0
	Female	39	19.8	7.7	5.3 - 10.1
Race					
	American Indian	2	1	*	*
	Asian	3	1.5	*	*
	Black	110	55.8	29.0	23.6 - 34.4
	White	80	40.6	14.3	11.2 - 17.4
	Other/Unknown	2	1.0	*	*
Hispanic					
	Hispanic	17	8.6	15.8	8.3 - 23.3
	Non-Hispanic	180	91.4	20.5	17.5 - 23.5
Age Group					
	< 1	3	1.5	*	*
	1 - 4	3	1.5	*	*
	5 - 9	0	0	*	*
	10 - 14	3	1.5	*	*
	15 - 19	22	11.2	34.1	19.9 - 48.3
	20 - 24	39	19.8	49.0	33.6 - 64.4
	25 - 34	40	20.3	24.2	16.7 - 31.7
	35 - 44	33	16.8	20.9	13.8 – 28.0
	45 - 54	20	10.2	15.1	8.5 - 21.7
	55 - 64	13	6.6	14.0	6.4 - 21.6
	65 - 74	10	5.1	21.2	8.1 - 34.3
	75 - 84	8	4.1	25.2	7.7 - 42.7
	85 +	3	1.5	*	*
Total Deaths		197	100		

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

Overall Violent Death Rates by Gender and Race, Durham County, NC; 2004 - 2007



Overall Violent Death Rates by Age, Durham County, NC; 2004 - 2007

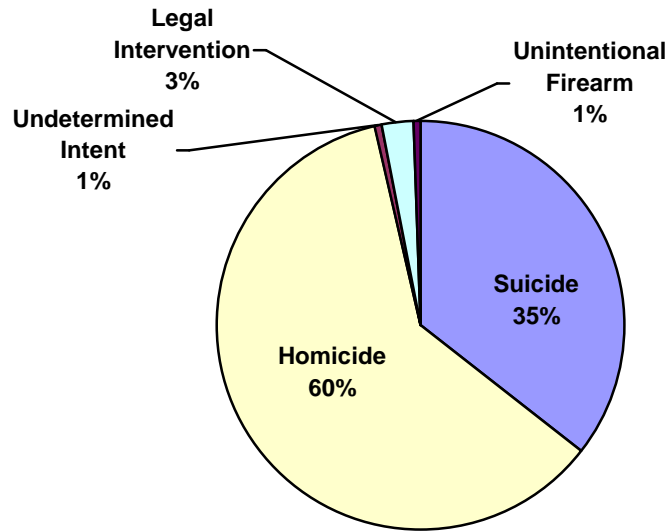


Note: Some values are zero or not available due to low count so the lines appear "broken".

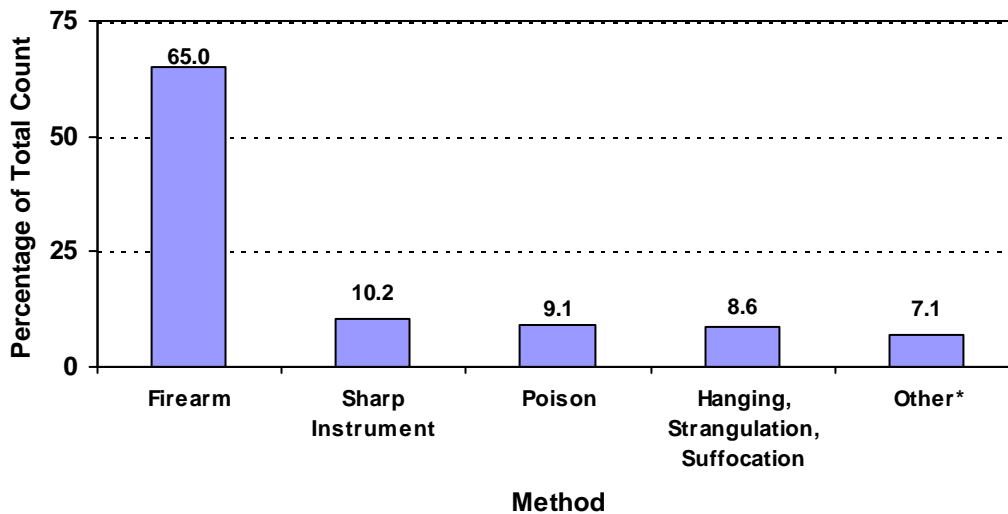
Table 2: Manner and Method of Violent Death Victims in Durham County, NC; 2004 - 2007

		Number	%
Manner of Death			
	Homicide	120	60.9
	Suicide	70	35.5
	Legal Intervention	5	2.5
	Undetermined Intent	1	0.5
	Unintentional Firearm	1	0.5
Method			
	Firearm	128	65.0
	Sharp Instrument	20	10.2
	Poisoning	18	9.1
	Hanging, Strangulation, Suffocation	17	8.6
	Blunt Instrument	5	2.5
	Unarmed Assault	4	2.0
	Fire or Burns	2	1.0
	Violent Shaking	2	1.0
	Fall	1	0.5
Total Deaths		197	100

**Manner of Violent Death,
Durham County, NC; 2004 - 2007**



**Method of Death for Overall Violent Deaths,
Durham County, NC; 2004 - 2007**



* Other methods include: blunt instruments, unarmed assaults, falls, drowning, fires or burns, violent shaking, motor vehicles, other transport vehicles, intentional neglect and other unspecified methods.

Table 3: Race by Gender of Violent Death Victims in Durham County, NC; 2004 - 2007

	Male				Female				Total	
	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%
Race										
American Indian	1	0.6	*	*	1	2.6	*	*	2	1.0
Asian	1	0.6	*	*	2	5.1	*	*	3	1.5
Black	94	59.5	54.3	43.3 – 65.3	16	41.0	7.8	4.0 – 11.6	110	55.8
White	60	38.0	21.2	15.8 – 26.6	20	51.3	7.2	4.1 – 10.3	80	40.6
Other/ Unknown	2	1.3	*	*	0	0	*	*	2	1.0
Total Deaths	158	100			39	100			197	100

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

**Race by Gender of Violent Death Victims,
Durham County, NC; 2004 - 2007**

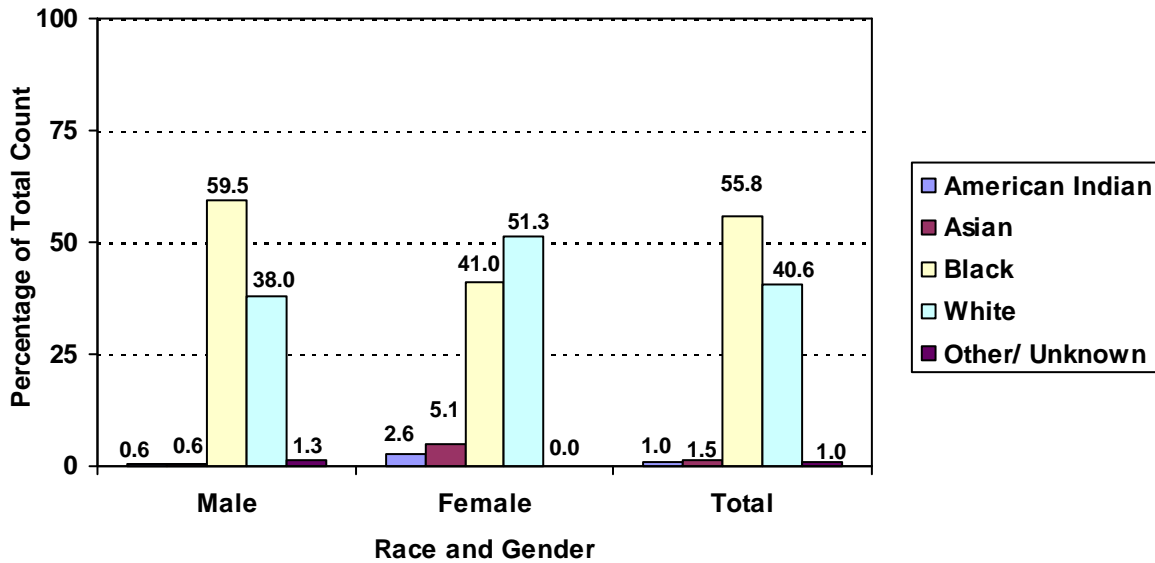
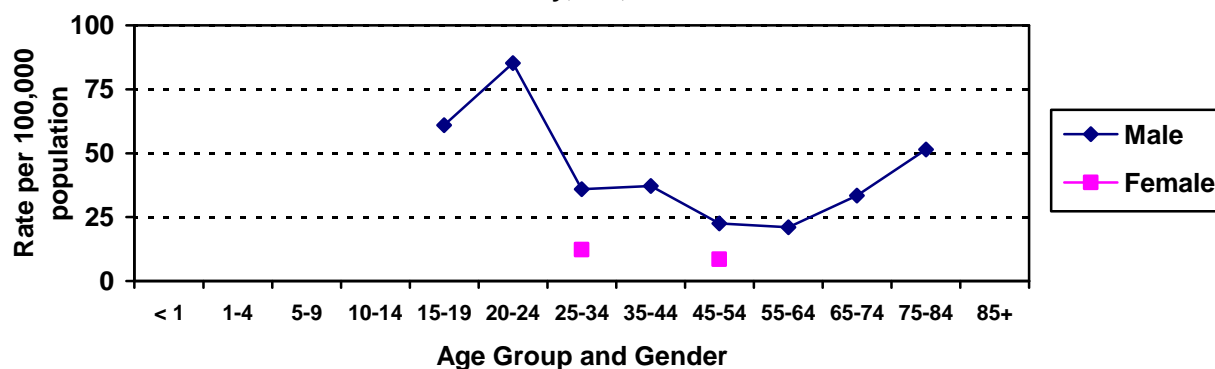


Table 4: Age Group by Gender of Violent Death Victims in Durham County, NC; 2004 - 2007

	Male				Female				Total	
	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%
Age Group										
< 1	3	1.9	*	*	0	0	*	*	3	1.5
1 - 4	2	1.3	*	*	1	2.6	*	*	3	1.5
10 - 14	1	0.6	*	*	2	5.1	*	*	3	1.5
15 - 19	20	12.7	61.0	34.3 - 87.7	2	5.1	*	*	22	11.2
20 - 24	35	22.2	85.2	57.0 - 113.4	4	10.3	*	*	39	19.8
25 - 34	30	19.0	35.9	23.0 - 48.8	10	25.6	12.3	4.7 - 19.9	40	20.3
35 - 44	29	18.4	37.2	23.6 - 50.8	4	10.3	*	*	33	16.8
45 - 54	14	8.9	22.5	10.7 - 34.3	6	15.4	8.5	1.7 - 15.3	20	10.2
55 - 64	9	5.7	21.0	7.3 - 34.7	4	10.3	*	*	13	6.6
65 - 74	7	4.4	33.4	8.7 - 58.1	3	7.7	*	*	10	5.1
75 - 84	6	3.8	51.4	10.3 - 92.5	2	5.1	*	*	8	4.1
85 +	2	1.3	*	*	1	2.6	*	*	3	1.5
Total Deaths	158	100			39	100			197	100

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

**Overall Violent Death Rates by Age Group and Gender of Victims,
Durham County, NC; 2004 - 2007**



Note: Some values are zero or not available due to low count so the lines appear "broken".

SECTION II: SUICIDE

Table 5: Gender, Race, and Age Group of Suicide Victims in Durham County, NC; 2004 - 2007					
		Number	%	Rate	CI
Gender					
	Male	48	68.6	11.8	8.5 - 15.1
	Female	22	31.4	5.0	2.9 - 7.1
Race					
	American Indian	1	1.4	*	*
	Asian	2	2.9	*	*
	Black	16	22.9	5.0	2.6 - 7.4
	White	51	72.9	10.5	7.6 - 13.4
Hispanic					
	Hispanic	3	4.3	*	*
	Non-Hispanic	67	95.7	8.8	6.7 - 10.9
Age Group					
	10 - 14	2	2.9	*	*
	15 - 19	3	4.3	*	*
	20 - 24	8	11.4	10.1	3.1 - 17.1
	25 - 34	7	10.0	4.2	1.1 - 7.3
	35 - 44	11	15.7	7.0	2.9 - 11.1
	45 - 54	17	24.3	12.8	6.7 - 18.9
	55 - 64	6	8.6	6.5	1.3 - 11.7
	65 - 74	8	11.4	17.0	5.3 - 28.7
	75 - 84	6	8.6	18.9	3.8 - 34.0
	85 +	2	2.9	*	*
Total Deaths		70	100		

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

**Suicide Rates by Gender and Race,
Durham County, NC; 2004 - 2007**

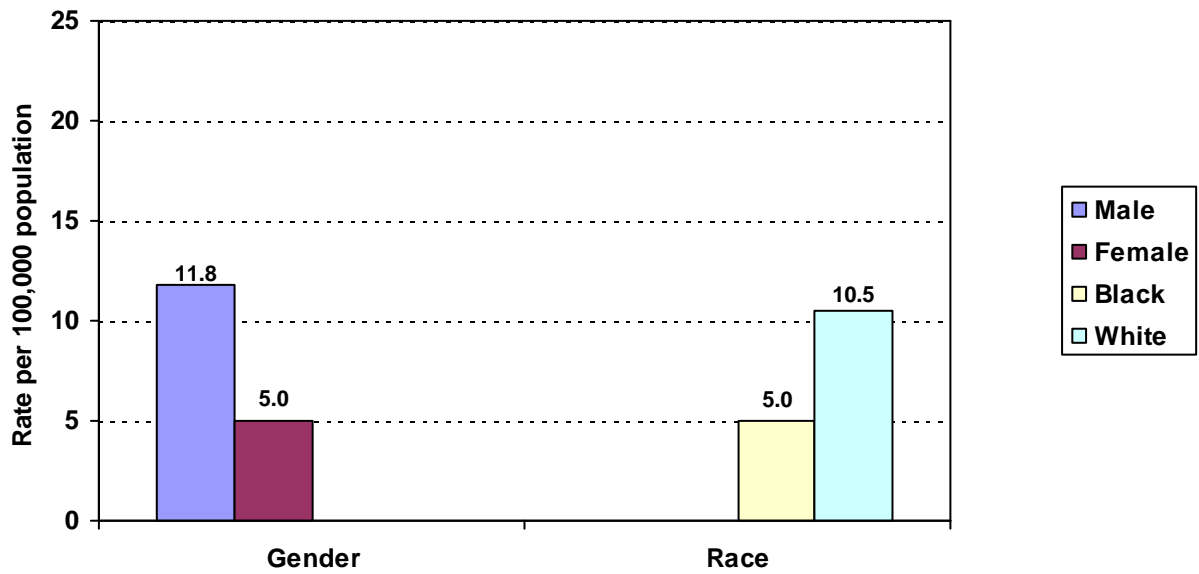
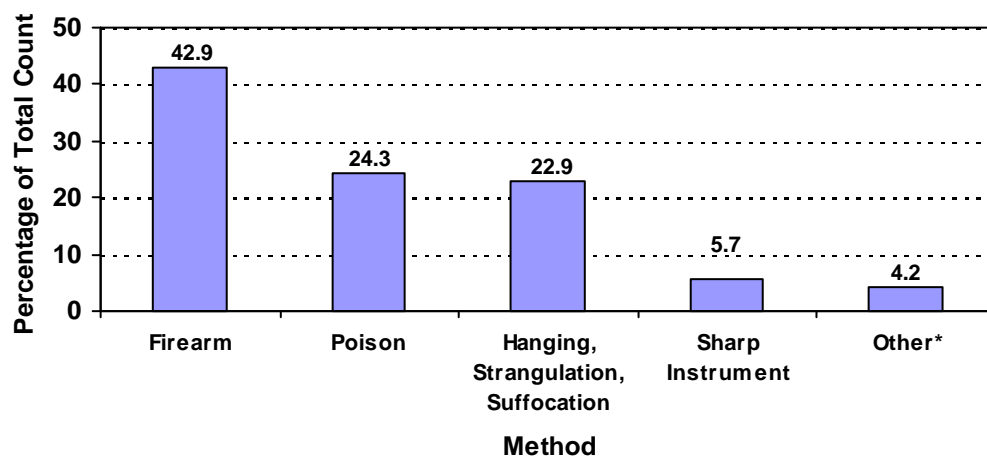


Table 6: Method of Death for Suicide Deaths in Durham County, NC; 2004 - 2007			
		Number	%
Method			
	Firearm	30	42.9
	Poisoning	17	24.3
	Hanging, Strangulation, Suffocation	16	22.9
	Sharp Instrument	4	5.7
	Fire or Burns	2	2.9
	Fall	1	1.3
Total Deaths		70	100

**Method of Death for Suicide Deaths,
Durham County, NC; 2004 - 2007**



* Other methods include: blunt instruments, unarmed assaults, fires or burns, drowning, motor vehicle, falls, violent shaking, intentional neglect, and other unspecified methods.

Table 7: Race by Gender of Suicide Victims in Durham County, NC; 2004 - 2007

	Male				Female				Total	
	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%
Race										
American Indian	0	0	*	*	1	4.5	*	*	1	1.4
Asian	0	0	*	*	2	9.1	*	*	2	2.9
Black	11	22.9	7.6	3.1 – 12.1	5	22.7	2.8	0.3 – 5.3	16	22.9
White	37	77.1	15.2	10.3 – 20.1	14	63.6	5.8	2.8 – 8.8	51	72.9

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

**Race by Gender of Suicide Victims,
Durham County, NC; 2004 - 2007**

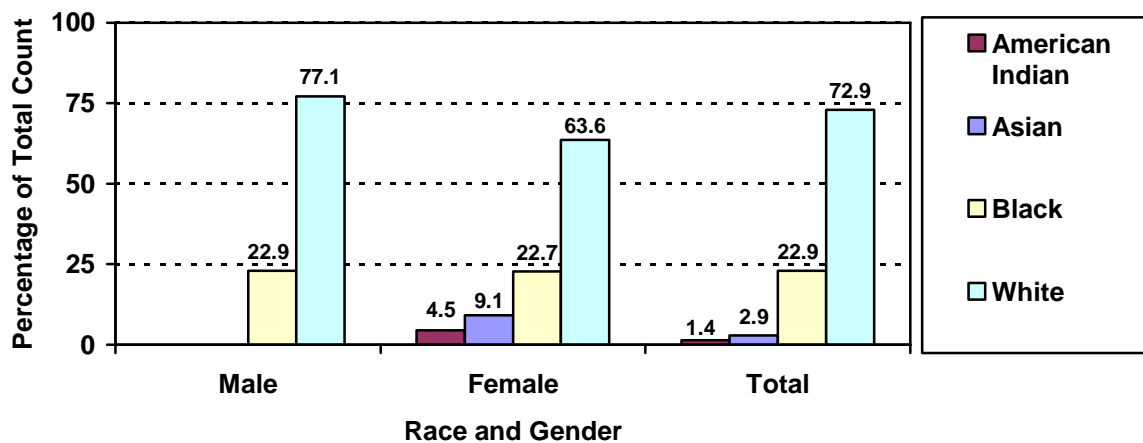
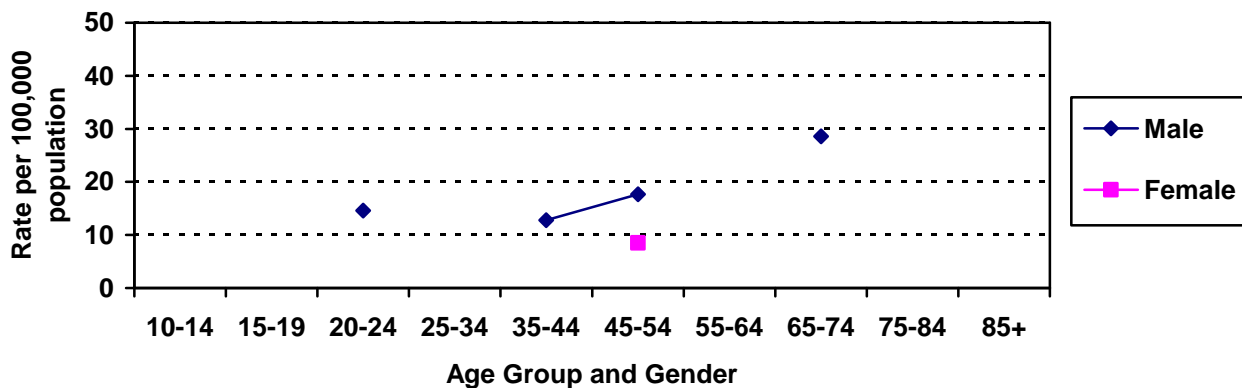


Table 8: Age Group by Gender of Suicide Victims in Durham County, NC; 2004 - 2007

	Male				Female				Total	
	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%
Age Group										
10 - 14	1	2.1	*	*	1	4.5	*	*	2	2.9
15 - 19	2	4.2	*	*	1	4.5	*	*	3	4.3
20 - 24	6	12.5	14.6	2.9 - 26.3	2	9.1	*	*	8	11.4
25 - 34	3	6.2	*	*	4	18.2	*	*	7	10.0
35 - 44	10	20.8	12.8	4.8 - 20.8	1	4.5	*	*	11	15.7
45 - 54	11	22.9	17.7	7.2 - 28.2	6	27.3	8.5	1.7 - 15.3	17	24.3
55 - 64	4	8.3	*	*	2	9.1	*	*	6	8.6
65 - 74	6	12.5	28.6	5.7 - 51.5	2	9.1	*	*	8	11.4
75 - 84	4	8.3	*	*	2	9.1	*	*	6	8.6
85 +	1	2.1	*	*	1	4.5	*	*	2	2.9
Total Deaths	48	100			22	100			70	100

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

**Suicide Rates by Age Group and Gender of Victims,
Durham County, NC; 2004 - 2007**



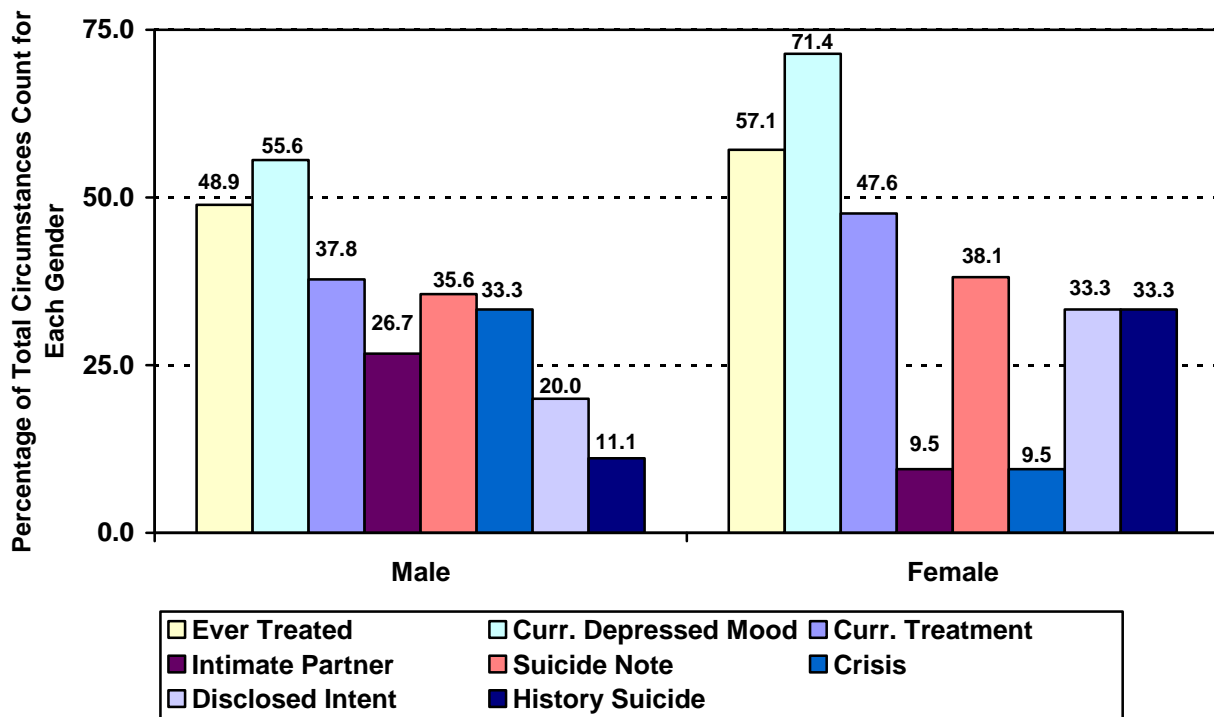
Note: Some values are zero or not available due to low count so the lines appear "broken".

Table 9: Circumstances of Suicide Victims in Durham County, NC; 2004 - 2007

	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Victim Circumstances						
Current depressed mood	25	55.6	15	71.4	40	60.6
Current treatment for mental illness	17	37.8	10	47.6	27	40.9
Ever treated for mental illness	22	48.9	12	57.1	34	51.5
Alcohol problem	4	8.9	2	9.5	6	9.1
Other substance problem	8	17.8	1	4.8	9	13.6
Left a suicide note	16	35.6	8	38.1	24	36.4
Disclosed intent to commit suicide	9	20.0	7	33.3	16	24.2
History of suicide attempts	5	11.1	7	33.3	12	18.2
Crisis in past two weeks	15	33.3	2	9.5	17	25.8
Physical health problem	14	31.1	3	14.3	17	25.8
Intimate partner problem	12	26.7	2	9.5	14	21.2
Other relationship problem	2	4.4	3	14.3	5	7.6
Job problem	5	11.1	2	9.5	7	10.6
School problem	1	2.2	0	0	1	1.5
Financial problem	2	4.4	0	0	2	3.0
Suicide of family or friend in past 5 years	1	2.2	0	0	1	1.5
Other death of friend/ family	1	2.2	0	0	1	1.5
Recent criminal/ legal problem	4	8.9	0	0	4	6.1
Other legal problems	2	4.4	0	0	2	3.0
Perpetrator of interpersonal violence in past month	2	4.4	0	0	2	3.0
Victim of interpersonal violence in past month	0	0	0	0	0	0

* Circumstances are only available for 1,000 of the 1,085 suicide deaths where age was ≥ 10 . The denominator of the percentage is the total number of suicide victims for each gender category who had circumstance data available. Each suicide victim may have 0 to many circumstances.

**Circumstances by Gender for Suicide Victims,
Durham County, NC; 2004 - 2007**



* Note: Multiple options are available therefore such responses add up to more than 100%. This figure does not include all circumstances.

Table 10: Mental Illnesses Under Treatment at the Time of Suicide in Durham County, NC; 2004 - 2007			
	Male	Female	Total
	Number	Number	Number
Mental Illness			
Depression/ Dysthymia	20	12	32
Schizophrenia	2	1	3
Bipolar Disorder	1	1	2
Anxiety Disorder	0	2	2
Other	1	0	1
Unknown	1	0	1

SECTION III: HOMICIDE

Table 11: Gender, Race, and Age Group of Homicide Victims in Durham County, NC; 2004 - 2007					
		Number	%	Rate	CI
Gender					
	Male	104	86.7	21.6	17.4 - 25.8
	Female	16	13.3	3.2	1.7 - 4.7
Race					
	American Indian	1	0.8	*	*
	Asian	1	0.8	*	*
	Black	90	75.0	23.8	18.9 - 28.7
	White	26	21.7	4.6	2.8 - 6.4
	Other/ Unknown	2	1.7	*	*
Hispanic					
	Hispanic	12	10.0	11.1	4.8 - 17.4
	Non-Hispanic	108	90.0	12.3	10.0 - 14.6
Age Group					
	< 1	3	2.5	*	*
	1 - 4	2	1.7	*	*
	5 - 9	0	0	*	*
	10 - 14	1	0.8	*	*
	15 - 19	17	14.2	26.3	13.8 - 38.8
	20 - 24	30	25.0	37.7	24.2 - 51.2
	25 - 34	32	26.7	19.4	12.7 - 26.1
	35 - 44	21	17.5	13.3	7.6 - 19.0
	45 - 54	3	2.5	*	*
	55 - 64	6	5.0	6.5	1.3 - 11.7
	65 - 74	2	1.7	*	*
	75 - 84	2	1.7	*	*
	85 +	1	0.8	*	*
Total Deaths		120	100		

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

**Homicide Rates by Gender and Race,
Durham County, NC; 2004 - 2007**

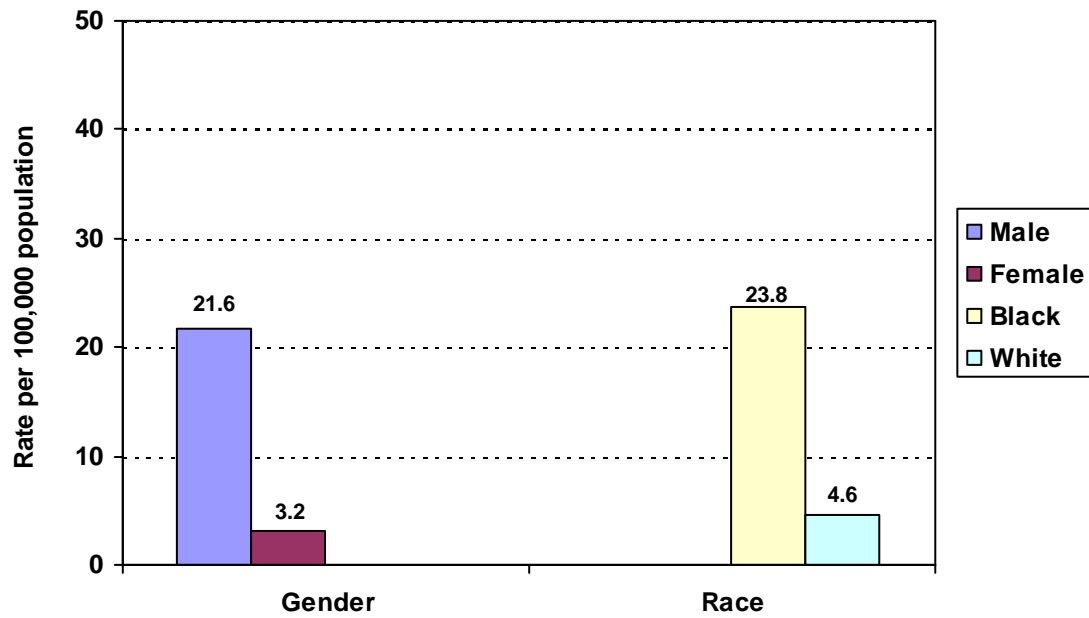
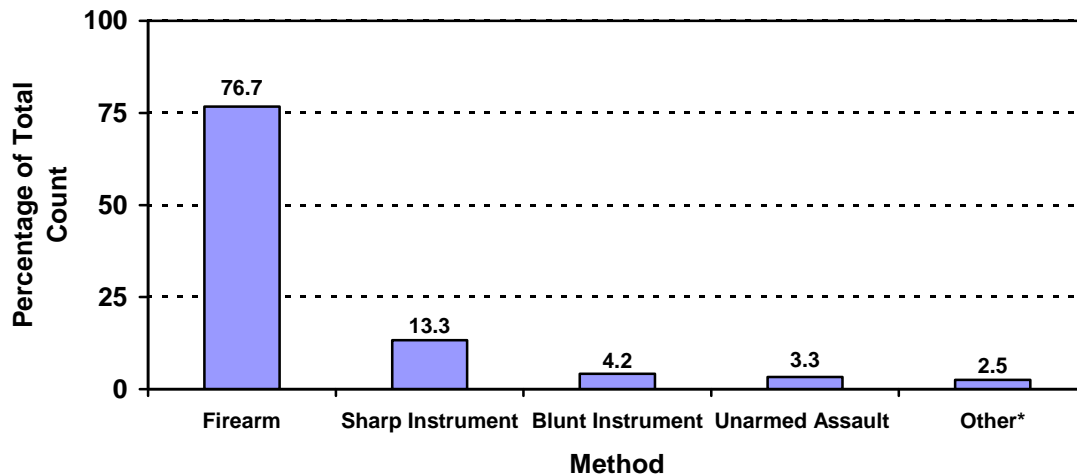


Table 12: Method of Death for Homicide Deaths in Durham County, NC; 2004 - 2007

Method		Number	%
	Firearm	92	76.7
	Sharp Instrument	16	13.3
	Blunt Instrument	5	4.2
	Unarmed Assault	4	3.3
	Violent Shaking	2	1.7
	Hanging, Strangulation, Suffocation	1	0.8
Total Deaths		120	100

Method of Death for Homicide Deaths, Durham County, NC; 2004 - 2007



* Other methods include: fires or burns, drowning, motor vehicle, falls, violent shaking, intentional neglect, and other unspecified methods.

Table 13: Race by Gender of Homicide Victims in Durham County, NC; 2004 - 2007

	Male				Female				Total	
	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%
Race										
American Indian	1	1.0	*	*	0	0	*	*	1	0.8
Asian	1	1.0	*	*	0	0	*	*	1	0.8
Black	79	76.0	45.7	35.6 – 55.8	11	5.3	0.3	2.1 – 8.5	90	75.0
White	21	20.2	0.2	4.2 – 10.6	5	31.3	1.8	0.2 – 3.4	26	21.7
Other/ Unknown	2	1.9	*	*	0	0	*	*	2	1.7

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

**Race by Gender of Homicide Victims,
Durham County, NC; 2004 - 2007**

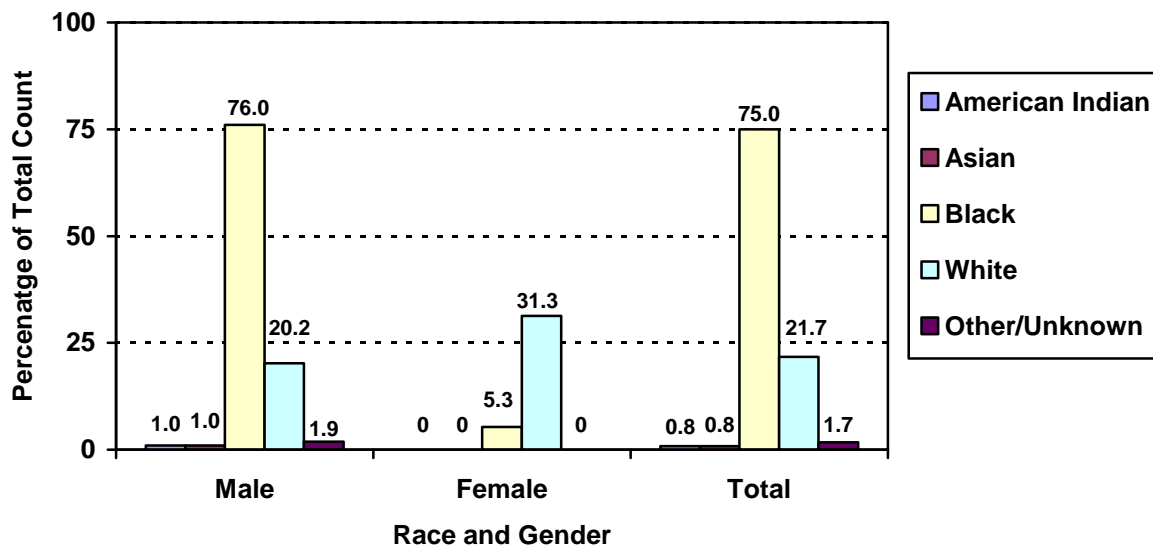
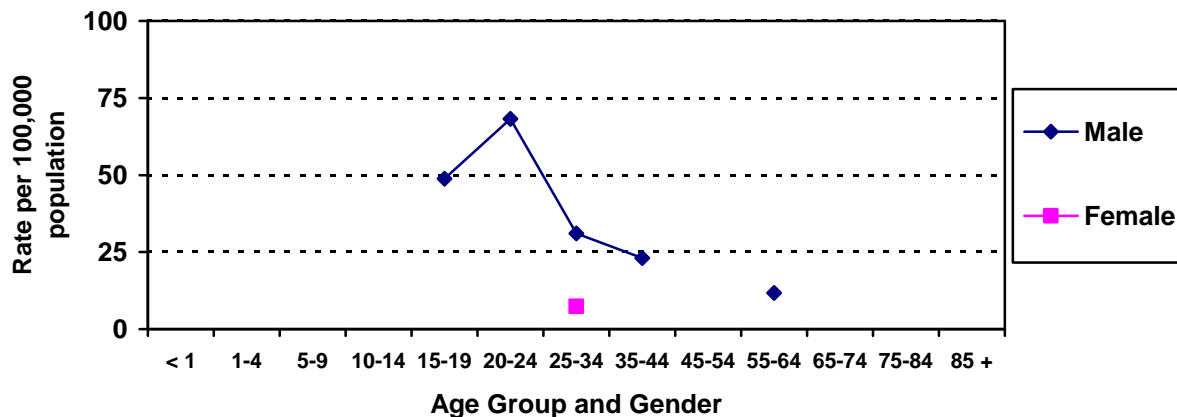


Table 14: Age Group by Gender of Homicide Victims in Durham County, NC; 2004 - 2007

	Male				Female				Total	
	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%
Age Group										
< 1	3	2.9	*	*	0	0	*	*	3	2.5
1 - 4	1	1.0	*	*	1	6.2	*	*	2	1.7
10 - 14	0	0	*	*	1	6.2	*	*	1	0.8
15 - 19	16	15.4	48.8	24.9 - 72.7	1	6.2	*	*	17	14.2
20 - 24	28	26.9	68.2	43.0 - 93.4	2	12.5	*	*	30	25.0
25 - 34	26	25.0	31.1	19.1 - 43.1	6	37.5	7.4	1.5 - 13.3	32	26.7
35 - 44	18	17.3	23.1	12.4 - 33.8	3	18.8	*	*	21	17.5
45 - 54	3	2.9	*	*	0	0	*	*	3	2.5
55 - 64	5	4.8	11.7	1.5 - 21.9	1	6.2	*	*	6	5.0
65 - 74	1	1.0	*	*	1	6.2	*	*	2	1.7
75 - 84	2	1.9	*	*	0	0	*	*	2	1.7
85 +	1	1.0	*	*	0	0	*	*	1	0.8
Total Deaths	104	100			16	100			120	100

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

**Homicide Rates by Age Group and Gender of Victims,
Durham County, NC; 2004 - 2007**



Note: Some values are zero or not available due to low count so the lines appear "broken".

Table 15: Circumstances of Homicides in Durham County, NC; 2004 - 2007			
		Number	%
Event Circumstances			
	Precipitated by another serious crime	38	38.0
	Other argument, abuse, or conflict	36	36.0
	Gang related	12	12.0
	Drug involvement	11	11.0
	Intimate partner violence related	9	9.0
	Argument over money or property	3	3.0
	Jealousy (Lovers Triangle)	2	2.0
Victim Characteristics			
	Victim used a weapon	7	7.0
	Justifiable self defense	4	4.0
	Victim was a bystander	3	3.0

*The denominator of the percentage is the total number of homicide victims who had circumstance data available. Each homicide victim may have anywhere from zero to many circumstances.

Table 16: Crimes Precipitating Homicides in Durham County, NC; 2004 - 2007			
	Male	Female	Total
	Number	Number	Number
Crime			
Robbery	23	1	24
Burglary	6	1	7
Motor Vehicle Theft	5	0	5
Drug Trade	3	0	3
Assault, Homicide	3	0	3
Rape, Sexual Assault	1	0	1
Gambling	1	0	1

Table 17: Type of Weapon by Manner of Death in Durham County, NC; 2004 - 2007

Weapon Type	Manner of Death										Total	
	Suicide		Homicide		Unintentional Firearm		Legal Intervention		Undetermined Intent			
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Firearm	30	42.9	92	76.7	1	100.0	5	100.0	0	0	128	65.0
Poisoning	17	24.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	100.0	18	9.1
Hanging, Strangulation, Suffocation	16	22.9	1	0.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	8.6
Sharp Instrument	4	5.7	16	13.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	10.2
Fire or Burns	2	2.9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1.0
Fall	1	1.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.5
Blunt Instrument	0	0	5	4.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	2.5
Unarmed Assault	0	0	4	3.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2.0
Violent Shaking	0	0	2	1.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1.0
Total Deaths	70	100	120	100	1	100	5	100	1	100	197	100

Table 18: Type of Firearm by Manner of Death in Durham County, NC; 2004 - 2007
For Firearm Deaths only

Firearm Type	Manner of Death									
	Suicide		Homicide		Unintentional Firearm		Legal Intervention			
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Handgun	24	80.0	64	69.6	5	100.0	0	0	93	73.2
Shotgun	4	13.3	6	6.5	0	0	0	0	10	7.9
Rifle	2	6.7	2	2.2	0	0	1	100.0	5	3.1
Unknown Firearm Type	0	0	20	21.7	0	0	0	0	20	15.7
Total Deaths	30	100	92	100	5	100	1	100	128	100

GLOSSARY

Adult	Person was 18 years of age or older on date of death.
Child	Person was less than 18 years of age on date of death.
Legal intervention	Decedent was killed by a police officer or some other peace officer, including military police, acting in the line of duty. Includes legal executions.
Occurrent death	Death occurred in NC. Decedent may or may not have been a NC resident at the time of death.
Peace officer	Person with specified legal authority to use deadly force.
Rates	Calculated as count x 100,000/population.
Resident death	Victim was a NC resident at the time of death and the death occurred in NC. All deaths reported in this report are resident deaths.
Undetermined intent	A death resulting from the use of force or power against oneself or another person for which the evidence indicating the manner of death was not sufficient to determine intent.
Violent death	Intentional use of physical force or power against oneself, another person, or against a group or community. Deaths meeting this definition include suicides, homicides, and legal interventions.



State of North Carolina • Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor
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Division of Public Health • Jeffrey P. Engel, State Health Director
Injury and Violence Prevention Branch

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